

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information management method in an information
processing system including a network capable for
5 dealing with information such as images, music, voice
and documents in large volumes at high speeds,
comprising the steps of:

when connecting a removable storage medium having a
program storage area storing programs and an information
10 storage area storing information, to an information
processing unit such as a computer on the network,

selectively displaying header thumb-nail images
corresponding to commercial information such as images,
music, voice and documents stored by said storage medium
15 in the information storage area thereof by operating
programs stored by said storage medium in the program
storage area thereof by said information processing
unit; and

calling and displaying of corresponding commercial
20 information, and/or purchase of information
corresponding to said commercial information, and/or
purchase of information corresponding to said commercial
information, and/or connection to, or registration of, a
service provider on the network corresponding to said
25 commercial information, in accordance with selection and
instruction of thumb-nail images desired by the operator.

2. An information management method according to claim 1,
wherein said method comprises, when purchasing
information corresponding to said commercial information,
5 downloading the purchased information into the
information storage area of said storage medium, or
permitting a commodity purchase procedure of the
purchased information, and when downloading the
purchased information in the information storage area of
10 said storage medium, registering the header thumb-nail
image corresponding to said downloaded information in
the information storage area of said storage medium.

3. An information management method according to claim 1,
15 wherein said method comprises, when connecting to the
service provider or registration thereof corresponding
to said commercial information, downloading the
commercial information of said service provider into the
information storage area of said storage medium, and
20 registering a header thumb-nail image corresponding to
said commercial information in the information storage
area of said storage medium.

4. An information management method according to claim 1,
25 comprising the steps of further storing information
prepared by the operator such as images, music, voice

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guide and fashion guide.

9. An information processing system including a network,
capable of processing information of images, voice and
5 documents in large volumes at high speeds, comprising:

a removable storage medium having a program storage
area storing programs and an information storage area
storing information; and an information processing unit,
such as a computer on the network, dismountably mounting
10 said storage medium;

wherein said information processing unit comprises,
when said storage medium is inserted,

display means selectively displaying a header
thumb-nail image corresponding to commercial information
15 such as images, music, voice and documents stored by
said storage medium in the information storage area
thereof by operating a program stored by said storage
medium in the program storage area thereof; and

service starting means for calling and
20 displaying of the corresponding commercial information,
and/or purchase of information corresponding to said
commercial information, and/or connection to, or
registration of, a service provider on the network
corresponding to said commercial information, in
25 accordance with selection and instruction of a desired
thumb-nail image by the operator.

10. An information processing system according to claim
9, wherein, when purchasing information corresponding to
said commercial information, said system further

5 comprises:

means for taking commodity purchasing procedure of
information to be purchased;

means for downloading the purchased information
into the information storage area of said storage medium
10 when the purchased information can be downloaded; and

means for registering the header thumb-nail image
corresponding to said downloaded information in the
information storage area of said storage medium when
downloading the purchased information in the information
15 storage area of said storage medium.

11. An information processing system according to claim
9, wherein, when connecting to, or registering, a
service provider corresponding to said commercial
20 information, said system further comprises:

means for downloading commercial information of
said service provider onto the information storage area
of said storage medium; and

means for registering the header thumb-nail image
25 corresponding to said commercial information in the
information storage area of said storage medium.

12. An information processing system according to claim
9, wherein said storage medium further stores
information prepared by the operator such as images,
5 music, voice and documents in the information storage
area thereof;

said display means selectively displays the header
thumb-nail image corresponding to said information; and

said service starting means reads out and displays
10 said information like obtaining said commercial
information in accordance with selection and instruction
of the desired thumb-nail image by the operator.

13. A removable storage medium having a storage section
15 comprising a program storage area storing programs and
an information storage area storing information, and an
electronic circuit section mounting electronic circuits
processing information, storing:

commercial information such as images, music, voice
20 and documents, and thumb-nail information corresponding
to said commercial information in said information
storage area; and a program storage area, storing:

a first program module which selectively displays a
header thumb-nail image corresponding to the commercial
25 information such as images, music, voice and documents
stored by said storage medium in the information storage

area thereof, through operation of a program stored by said storage medium in the program storage area thereof by said information processing unit such as a computer; and

5 a second program module for calling and displaying of commercial information, and/or purchase of information corresponding to said commercial information, and/or connection to, or registration of, a service provider on the network corresponding to said commercial
10 information, in accordance with selection and instruction of a thumb-nail image desired by the operator,

in said program storage area.

15 14. A storage medium according to claim 13, wherein said second program module comprises, when information corresponding to said commercial information is purchased, the steps of downloading the purchased information in the information storage area of said
20 storage medium, and registering a header thumb-nail image corresponding to said downloaded information in the information storage area of said storage medium.

15. A storage medium according to claim 13, wherein,
25 when connection to, or registration of, a service provider corresponding to said commercial information

has been done, said second program module comprises the steps of downloading the commercial information of said service provider into the information storage area of said storage medium, and registering a header thumb-nail
5 image corresponding to said commercial information in the information storage area of said storage medium.

16. A storage medium according to claim 13, wherein the information storage area of said storage medium further
10 stores information such as images, music, voice and documents prepared by an operator; and said first program module comprises the step of selectively displaying the header thumb-nail image corresponding to said information, and said second program module
15 comprises the step of reading out and displaying said information like said commercial information in accordance with selection and instruction of a thumb-nail image desired by the operator.

20 17. A storage medium according to claim 13, wherein said storage medium has a special read-only area and a writable area.

18. A storage medium according to claim 13, wherein said
25 program storage area further stores a bootstrap program and a system program which is read out by said bootstrap

program and controls said first and second program modules.

19. A storage medium according to claim 13, wherein said
5 storage medium is an optical disk.